(b) Yes, Sir. Two low value equipments in Calcutta Laboratory could not be utilised because of lack of response from the manufacturer to BIS Certification Marks Scheme which is voluntary in nature. and three high value equipments in Central Laboratory. Sahibabad could not be put to use because of lack of uninterrupted power supply.

(c) As a small beginning towards commercialisation, calibration facilities in BIS Laboratories would be available for commercial purpose to earn more revenue for BIS.

Purchase of residential flats by BIS

7573. SHRI MISA R. GANESAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bureau of Indian Standards have purchased residential flats at various stations for Groups A officers only;

(b) whether TA. DA rules are also relaxed to give maximum benefit to Group A officers; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) A proposal from BIS for amendment of regulation governing TA/DA of all categories of BIS employees is under consideration of the Government.

Quality system standard for BIS

7574. SHRI MISA R. GANESAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether BIS is following any applicable international quality system standard for its own functioning; and

(b) if so, which Quality System document exists in Bureau of Indian Standards?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) BIS has adopted quality system and quality assurance standards as well as guidelines established by International Organization for Stadardization (IS). International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the European Union.

(b) BIS maintains Quality System Mannual and related Procedures, Guidelines and Formats as per requirements of IS/IEC Guide 40 and EN 45012.

BIS as a Scientific Organisation

7575. SHRI MISA R. GANESAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bureau of Indian Standards is declared as Scientific organisation; and

(b) if so, which activities of BIS are scientific and who is doing scientific activities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The following core activities of BIS are scientific in nature:

(1) Formulation of National Standards.

(2) Laboratory Management.

(3) Product Certification, and

(4) Quality System Certification

In addition all technical support services related to the core activities are also deemed as scientific.

These activities are being carried out by numbers of scientific cadre of BIS who possess a minimum qualification of Post Graduate Degree in Natural Scien-

ces or Degree in Engineering or technology or equivalent.

Request to enhance allocation of kerosene to Orissa

7576. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the kerosene allotted to the State of Orissa at present is not adequate:

(b) whether Government of Orissa has asked the Central Government to enhance the monthly allocation of Superior kerosene oil; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) Requests are received from various State Governments including Orissa for additional allocation of Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO) from time to time. However, on account of constraint of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved. It is not possible to meet the entire demand of the State Governments. Nevertheless in view of the relatively lower level of allocations of SKO to Orissa in the past, an increase of 9.7 per cent over the previous year's allocation has been made for the year 1995-96 in the case of Orissa. Central Government has allowed the import and marketing of SKO by private parties under the Parallel Marketing Scheme with a view to augment availability of the product in the country. Allocations of PDS commodities are supplemental in nature and are not intended to meet the entire requirements of any State|UT including Orissa.

Consumer items supplied through PDS below market price

7577. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the consumer items that are being supplied through the Public Distribution System at below market prices giving the prices of those items prevailing in the market including Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar and the ones at which the same are sold through the Public Distribution System;

(b) the details of the hoarders blackmarketeers indulging in unfair trade practices under the Essential Commodities Act against whom stringent action is being taken;

(c) the reasons for not taking any action against the Super Bazar which has been indulging in unfair practices;

(d) the details of items whose selling rates where unfairly increased by the Super Bazar; and

(e) what action does Government propose to take against the Super Bazar in regard to the above?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Super Bazar is not dealing with any consumer item through Public Distribution System. Kendriya Bhandar is dealing with the items of wheat, rice sugar and palmolein oil in its fair price shops through PDS. Kendriya Bhandar has reported that the prevailing prices in its fair price shops and in the open sales in its branches are as under:—

Item	Price in the fair price shops	Price in the open sale in the branch stores
1. Wheat	Rs. 4.27 per kg.	Not sold.
2. Rice	Rs. 6.90 per kg.	Rs. 7.80 per kg. (permal rice)
3 Sugar	Rs. 9.05 per kg.	Rs. 13.80 per kg.
4. Palmolein Oil	Rs. 29.5 per Ltr.	Not sold.